

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/075,458

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI, KAZUNORI.

Examiner

Dov Popovici

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE request and the amendment filed on 12/07/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

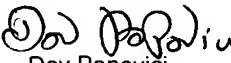
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/20/02 & 4/22/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20070116.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Dov Popovici
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2625

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 07, 2006 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond F. Cardillo on 1/17/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the abstract:

In the abstract, line 1, delete "A data control apparatus (a main control device) is disclosed."

In the abstract, line 2, change "comprises:" to --includes--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Andreano (WO 96/02034) discloses the firmware is updated with computer programs downloaded into the flash memory from a host.

Shinkawa Katsuhito (JP 11272634) discloses updating an execution program in a peripheral device single body by providing CPU and an overwriting means, and overwriting an external execution program to a nonvolatile storage.

Seki Masami (JP 2000263897) discloses update control program is downloaded by a downloaded control means.

Bacon et al. (U.S. 5,440,632) discloses downloading new program code and that the boot program may download code to different configurations of subscriber terminals including those with flash EPROM or extended memories from plug-in expansion modules.

Tanaka et al. (U.S. 6,266,810) discloses a remote program downloading system and apparatus and exclusive download process program.

The prior art of record (namely, *Andreano (WO 96/02034)*; *Shinkawa Katsuhito (JP 1127234)*; *Seki Masami (JP 2000263897)*; *Bacon et al. (U.S. 5,440,632)* and *Tanaka et al. (U.S. 6,266,810)*) do not teach, disclose or suggest the claimed limitations of: overwriting a program registered in a program memory of a main body of a data control apparatus; downloading control programs of extension devices to a plurality of extension devices which are connected to an extension device interface of the data control apparatus; and downloading the control programs for the extension devices

through a download exclusive communicator, as claimed in independent claim 24.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 16, 20 and 22, recite similar claimed features and are therefore allowed for the same or similar reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Andreano (WO 96/02034) discloses the firmware is updated with computer programs downloaded into the flash memory from a host.

Shinkawa Katsuhito (JP 11272634) discloses updating an execution program in a peripheral device single body by providing CPU and an overwriting means, and overwriting an external execution program to a nonvolatile storage.

Seki Masami (JP 2000263897) discloses update control program is downloaded by a downloaded control means.

Bacon et al. (U.S. 5,440,632) discloses downloading new program code and that the boot program may download code to different configurations of subscriber terminals including those with flash EPROM or extended memories from plug-in expansion modules.

Tanaka et al. (U.S. 6,266,810) discloses a remote program downloading system and apparatus and exclusive download process program.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dov Popovici whose telephone number is 571-272-4083. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Dov Popovici
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2625